

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195668

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (GROVE, THOMAS ARTHUR), NP

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATION ON THOMAS GROVE CASE

REF: STATE 194091

1. IN THE COURSE OF A CALL BY NEPALESE AMBASSADOR AT THE DEPARTMENT ON AUGUST 5, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING THE CASE OF THOMAS GROVE:

A. THE SECRETARY WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THE CASE OF AN AMERICAN--THOMAS GROVE--WHO HAS BEEN MISSING IN NEPAL SINCE LAST DECEMBER, AND ASK THAT YOU URGE YOUR GOVERNMENT TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO DISCOVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS DISAPPEARANCE. AMBASSADOR MAYTAG IS MAKING THE SAME REQUEST TO YOUR GOVERNMENT IN KATHMANDU.

B. THE POLICE AUTHORITIES IN KATHMANDU AND THE U.S. EMBASSY THERE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THIS CASE FOR SOME TIME, AND THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THOMAS GROVE WAS MURDERED AND ROBBED WHILE TREKKING ALONE ON THE TRAIL TO THE EVEREST REGION. SOME OF HIS STOLEN TRAVELLERS' CHECKS
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HAVE BEEN CASHED, AND HIS PASSPORT AND OTHER EFFECTS FOUND

ALONG THE TRAIL, BUT NO TRACE OF HIM HAS BEEN FOUND.

C. THE FATHER OF THE MISSING MAN, REVEREND ARTHUR GROVE OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND, HAS TRIED EVERY POSSIBLE WAY TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS SON. HE HAS NOW APPEALED PERSONALLY TO PRESIDENT FORD TO HELP HIM, SO THAT HE CAN AT LEAST FIND HIS SON'S BODY AND BRING THE CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE.

D. WE ARE AWARE THAT THE NEPALESE AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN COOPERATING IN THIS CASE. HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THERE REMAIN SEVERAL LEADS IN THE CASE, AND IN VIEW OF THE GREAT ANGUISH BEING EXPERIENCED BY REVEREND GROVE AND HIS FAMILY, SECRETARY KISSINGER IS ASKING THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO INVESTIGATE ALL LEADS AND ESTABLISH THE FACTS OF THOMAS GROVE'S DISAPPEARANCE.

2. AMBASSADOR KHATRI LISTENED CAREFULLY TO DUBS' PRESENTATION AND ASSURED HIM THAT OUR REQUEST WOULD BE CONVEYED TO HIS GOVERNMENT PROMPTLY. HABIB

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